

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 OMB-01

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O R 191230Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7263

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ANKARA 9796

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJ: FURTHER MEDIA REACTION TO AID CONTINUATION

REF: ANKARA 9763

1. THE HOUSE AND SENATE VOTES ON THE FOREIGN AID BILL PERMITTING CONTINUATION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY HAVE RECEIVED MODERATE PLAY IN THE TURKISH MEDIA SINCE WEDNESDAY NIGHT, DEC. 18. BOTH RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS HAVE PLAYED THE STORY, BUT NOT AMONG LEAD ITEMS. IT WAS REPORTED ON SOME FRONT PAGES DECEMBER 19.

COMMENT: FACT THAT COVERAGE WAS ONLY MODERATE WAS PROBABLY DUE
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TO THE HEAVY LOCAL COVERAGE IN WEDNESDAY EDITIONS GIVEN

TO THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ACTION(SEE REFTTEL), AFTER WHICH
ACTUAL VOTING PERHAPS SEEMED SOMETHING OF AN ANTI-CLIMAX.)

2. NO NEW OFFICIAL COMMENT HAS APPEARED.

3. ONLY THE LEFT WING PRESS COMMENTED THURSDAY ON THE RESUMPTION OF AID AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING IT. IN LEFT-LIBERAL CUMHURIYET, THE WELL-KNOWN FAR-LEFTIST COMMENTATOR ILHAN SELCUK DECLARED THAT "THE TRUE NATURE OF THE AID HAS BEEN DISCLOSED...WHAT IS THE USE OF THE RESUMPTION OF U.S. AID TO TURKEY TODAY? WHO CAN GUARANTEE THAT IT WOULDN'T BE CUT IN A TIME OF CRISIS. TURKEY HAS BEEN MADE AN ADVANCE OUTPOST OF THE UNITED STATES, A CHEAP BASE AND A CHEAP SOURCE OF MANPOWER FOR THE UNITED STATES. BUT THE FAULT DOES NOT REST WITH THEM. WE ARE THE GUILTY ONES."

4. IN THE SAME VEIN, ALI SIRMEN, ALSO WRITING IN CUMHURIYET, ASKED: "...WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE U.S. AID CONTINUES UNTIL FEBRUARY 5, OR WHAT WILL NOT HAPPEN? IS THERE A SINGLE ONE OF US LEFT WHO HAS FAILED TO SEE THAT U.S. AID HAS MADE US A SLAVE OF THE UNITED STATES?"

5. WRITING IN FAR LEFT YENI ORTAM, ILHAMI SOYSAL, WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN ANTI-U.S. POSITIONS, CHARGED THAT THE AID SUSPENSION SINCE DECEMBER 10 REPRESENTS A BREACH OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. HE ASKS WHAT WILL BE DONE ABOUT AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY WHICH OPERATE UNDER THESE AGREEMENTS.
MACOMBER

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